



LEADING WITH LEARNING

*Excellence, Innovation & Success
at Harrisdale Primary School*

5th June 2025 ~ Every Student Successful

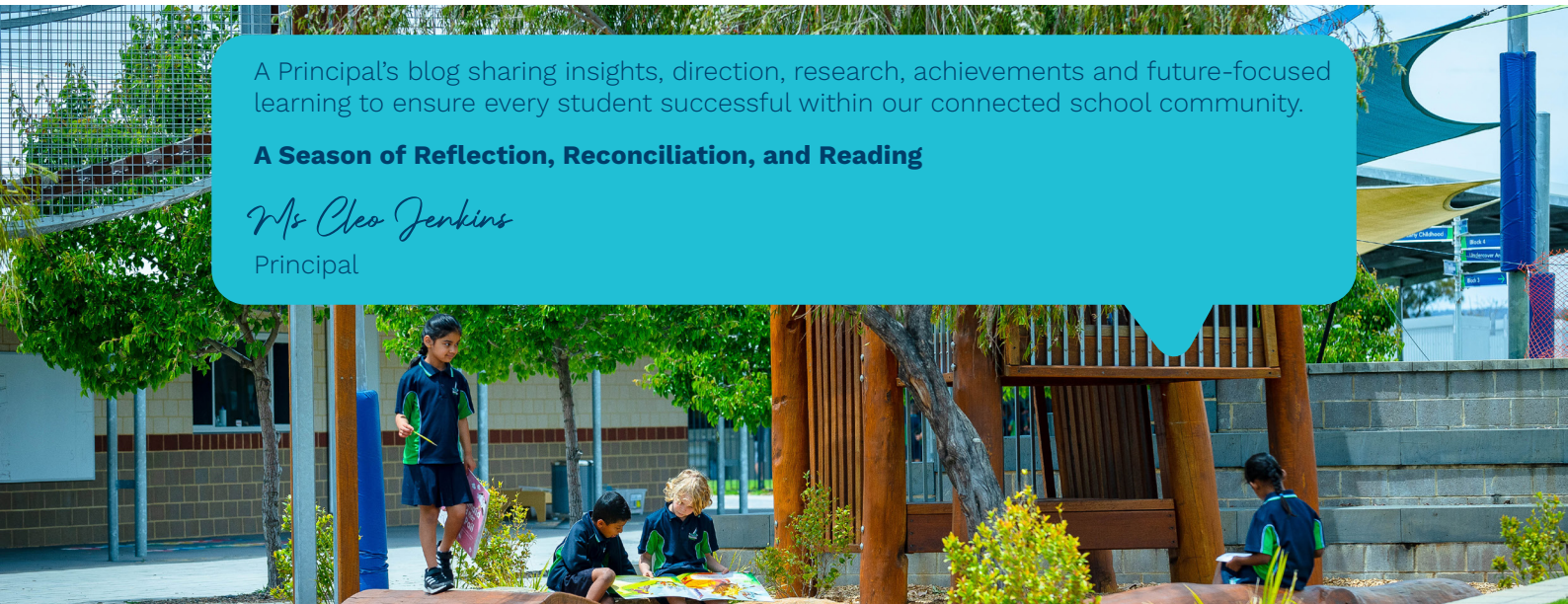


A Principal's blog sharing insights, direction, research, achievements and future-focused learning to ensure every student successful within our connected school community.

A Season of Reflection, Reconciliation, and Reading

Ms Cleo Jenkins

Principal



We are currently in Makuru, the Noongar season of the first rains and the coldest part of the year. This time marks a significant seasonal transition, as the weather cools and the colours of the land deepen—shifting to hues of blue, grey, and dark green. Traditionally, Makuru was a time when Noongar communities would move inland to shelter together, strengthen relationships, and plan for the months ahead. It is a season of reflection and restoration—something we can all relate to as we almost reach the halfway point of the school year.

With the wet weather becoming more common, we've reminded students of our Extreme Weather Policy. When conditions are unsuitable for outdoor play, the siren sounds and students return to class with their teachers. We sincerely appreciate our staff for supporting this process, often giving up their own break time to supervise students. A simple thank you goes a long way—when staff feel appreciated, they're more likely to go the extra mile, and the ripple effect of this lands with our students.

Last week, our community walked together through National Reconciliation Week, engaging in learning experiences that honoured Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, and contributions. The 2025 theme, Bridging Now to Next, highlights the importance of connecting the past with the present and future as part of the reconciliation journey. Across the school, students engaged in meaningful classroom activities centred around truth-telling, respect, and understanding. We remain deeply committed to reconciliation, guided by our Reconciliation Action Plan. A heartfelt thank you to our staff and families for embedding these values in both curriculum and daily practice—and to our Yarning Group for their continued leadership, wisdom, and cultural guidance in helping our Aboriginal students thrive as Aboriginal people.

Throughout Term Two, we've seen many examples of excellence, perseverance, and character. At our recent Cross Country Carnival, students demonstrated grit and determination as they ran through rain and wind—pushing themselves both physically and mentally. These events build more than fitness; they cultivate resilience, confidence, and the ability to rise to challenges—essential skills that support lifelong learning and wellbeing.

That same determination is evident in our classrooms, where improving reading continues to be a key whole-school priority. Talk for Reading is slowly being embedded across year levels, fostering a high-expectation, whole-class approach that benefits all learners. Our teachers are engaging students in rich discussions around high-quality texts, strengthening vocabulary, comprehension, oral language, and background knowledge.

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for more!**



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This work aligns closely with Scarborough's Reading Rope and reflects our belief that every child deserves access to meaningful, structured reading experiences. Families play a vital role in reinforcing reading at home. Reading aloud together, asking questions, and discussing stories all help to deepen understanding and build language skills. For families of EAL/D (English as an Additional Language or Dialect) learners, continuing to speak and read in your home language is especially powerful. It strengthens oral language foundations that transfer to English learning <https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/connecting-communicating/bilingualism-multilingualism/bilingualism>. Encouraging your child to retell stories, draw what they've read, or listen to audiobooks can also support their comprehension. Ultimately, the most powerful support you can offer is your time, interest, and encouragement—every shared story helps build your child's confidence and love of learning.

As teachers prepare Semester One reports, they do so with care and professionalism. Reports are more than a summary of grades—they offer insight into your child's academic progress, personal development, and next steps. Our goal is for each report to celebrate progress, achievement and a clear direction for future learning. We encourage families to read reports together with their children, acknowledge their progress, and use this as a springboard to set shared goals moving forward.

We are preparing for an exciting milestone in the life of our school—the transition into our brand-new building at the beginning of Term 3. With construction nearing completion, planning is well underway to ensure a smooth move for students and staff. This includes classroom allocations, technology installation, and the movement of resources and furniture. The new space will provide innovative and contemporary learning environments that reflect the continued growth of our school and our commitment to high-quality teaching and learning. We are all looking forward to this next chapter and can't wait to see the positive impact it will have for our students and school community.

Finally, we want to recognise and thank our families for the critical role you play in your child's education. Parent engagement remains one of the most powerful predictors of student success—improving learning outcomes, attendance, and overall wellbeing. Whether you're volunteering for excursions, attending Coffee and Conversations, providing input on events like graduation, attending the Fathering Project, or simply connecting with us through Seesaw—your involvement makes a real difference. When we combine high expectations, quality teaching, and strong home-school partnerships, there truly is no limit to what our students can achieve.

It is a genuine privilege to lead a school community where respect is consistently lived out, not just spoken about. Each day, I'm reminded of how fortunate we are to have such a compassionate, respectful, and thoughtful village of students, staff, and families. The culture of kindness and integrity that defines our school is a testament to the people who make it what it is. Thank you for all that you do.

Ms Cleo Jenkins

Principal